



SCIENCE  
FORUM  
2016



Independent  
Science and  
Partnership  
Council

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## SF16 | Agricultural research for rural prosperity: Rethinking the pathways

Poverty reduction is achieved through many pathways of which agriculture is just one. Agricultural strategies for poverty reduction have been debated for decades. Apparent lack of consensus concerning the key links between agricultural research and its impact on poverty reduction should not come as a surprise. Consensus has been elusive because these multiple links are complex and interdependent, the strength and effectiveness of each depends greatly on structural and contextual elements that extend beyond agriculture to include not just rural non-farm activities but the entire economy; and, as a result, these relationships differ significantly among countries. Moreover, these opportunities to reduce poverty also are shaped by multiple interacting drivers of change, including but not limited to climate change.

SF16 will explore the characteristics, scope and geographies of poverty as well as the pathways through which agricultural research (including

research on agricultural systems, natural resource management, human nutrition, and institutional and policy research as well as germplasm improvement) can have practical impacts on poverty. Specifically, SF16 aims to yield insights to inform improvements in the design of agricultural research which seeks to reduce poverty, including pathways, identification and strengthening of strategic partnerships, and developing processes for active learning and adaptive management, including metrics and indicators for this CGIAR system level outcome, monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment.

### OBJECTIVE

To rethink the pathways for agricultural research to stimulate inclusive development of rural economies in an era of climate change. The Forum will marshal evidence and build on lessons learned to date, to suggest an updated list of priority research areas and approaches which involve more strategic and inclusive engagement with partners.

**THE SCIENCE FORUM** series is a flagship event that was initiated by the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) under its remit of Mobilizing Science. It serves as a means to reach out to scientists and scientific communities external to CGIAR, but who have potentially important contributions to make to the CGIAR research portfolio and its system level objectives of improving food security, human nutrition and health, alleviation of poverty and environmental sustainability.

The Science Forum brings together scientists, practitioners, policy makers and funders to examine emerging challenges and recent scientific advances. Participants will be selected in a manner to achieve equitable representation of all stakeholder groups.

#### STRENGTHENING SCIENCE IN THE CGIAR

The Independent Science & Partnership Council (ISPC) plays a vital role in strengthening CGIAR science. Visit the ISPC website to learn more: [www.ispc.cgiar.org](http://www.ispc.cgiar.org)

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#### ORGANIZERS

The Science Forum 2016 will be led by ISPC on behalf of CGIAR, and co-hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany and co-hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

Maggie Gill (ISPC Chair & Coordinator Scientific Programme Science Forum 2016), Bruce Campbell (Director, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security – CCAFS), Gebisa Ejeta (Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics and International Agriculture, Purdue University), Anil Gupta (Founder, Honey Bee Network India & Professor, Indian Institute of Management), Rashid Hassan (Director, Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa, University of Pretoria), Victor Konde (UNECA), Rajul Pandya-Lorch (Head 2020 Vision Initiative and Chief of Staff, IFPRI), Tom Tomich (ISPC, Director, Agricultural Sustainability Institute & Professor, University of California Davis) and Preet Lidder (Agricultural Research Officer, ISPC & Science Forum 2016 Coordinator).